

Notification of new construction project additions, as outlined in paragraph (1) above, shall be made to the General Assembly prior to the expenditure of funds or the submission of any contract for approval to the Board of Public Works.

Consolidated Transportation Bonds may be issued in any amount provided that the aggregate outstanding and unpaid principal balance of these bonds and bonds of prior issues shall not exceed ~~\$1.409~~ \$1.7 billion as of June 30, 1997. Provided however, that in addition to the limit established under this provision, the department may increase its debt outstanding by not more than ~~\$20~~ ~~\$10~~ \$15 million, so long as (1) notice stating the specific reason for the additional debt requirement is provided to the budget committees and (2) the budget committees have 30 days to review and comment on the proposal before publication of a preliminary official statement including the debt.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this budget, for fiscal year 1997 total special fund expenditures for capital purposes by the Department of Transportation may not exceed ~~\$538,255,201~~ \$543,641,201; a reduction of ~~\$29,251,000~~ \$23,865,000 from the proposed fiscal year 1997 budget as contained within the final 1996 Consolidated Transportation Program. The reduction of ~~\$29,251,000~~ \$23,865,000 consists of ~~\$9,251,000~~ \$7,865,000 made by the General Assembly during the 1996 session and an additional ~~\$20~~ \$16 million in project cash flow deferrals which will be identified by the department. Provided however, that this ceiling may be increased only under the following conditions:

- (1) Due to shifts in project cash flow from fiscal year 1996; or
- (2) Due to unforeseen circumstances, such as market opportunities, which require immediate action by the State; and
- (3) The budget committees are notified of the